PUBLIC ART IS A COMPONENT OF A VIBRANT, LIVABLE COMMUNITY.

LANCASTER PUBLIC ART HAS A TEN-YEAR PLAN TO ENGAGE EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CREATION OF WORKS OF ART.

This public art plan reflects the ideas expressed in community meetings and surveys, stakeholder interviews, and planning sessions.
Vision

Focus on equity, livability, and excellence to promote neighborhood connectivity, create meaningful collaborations, and magnify Lancaster’s distinct sense of place. This will position Lancaster as a city distinguished by public artworks and engaged communities.

Goals

EQUITY
LIVABILITY
EXCELLENCE
Every community in Lancaster will have opportunities to collaborate with artists on projects in the public realm.

**STRATEGIES:**

- Instill diversity, equity, and inclusion in the planning and production of art in public places in Lancaster.

- Work with community organizations and residents to identify a location to present temporary art in each quadrant: NE, NW, SE, and SW.

- Create a policy for temporary public art that outlines the process for artists or organizations to initiate projects on public property.

- Foster partnerships with public and private sector entities to diversify public art initiatives. City of Lancaster shouldn’t lead or be in control of every initiative, but it can add value and expertise via partnerships.

- Empower local artists by developing resources to keep them informed of opportunities and by helping them develop skills to compete for public art projects.

- Build on the engagement fostered by this plan to create an effective framework for artists and communities to genuinely collaborate on public art projects and events.
Public art contributes to Lancaster’s sense of community, livability, creativity, and character.

STRATEGIES:

- Enable artists to live in Lancaster by fostering their public art success locally, regionally, and nationally.
- Encourage private developers and nonprofit entities implementing capital construction projects to commission or purchase art for their projects.
- Integrate art into everyday places to make them more desirable and amplify neighborhood character.
- Transform unsightly or underutilized places into assets with public art and placemaking that enhance Lancaster’s livability.
- Inform residents and visitors about public art assets and experiences in Lancaster through social media, events, and programs.
- Consider short- and long-term opportunities for public art for every master plan, neighborhood plan, and development initiative in Lancaster.
Public art initiatives in Lancaster are guided by artistic excellence and sincere community participation.

EXCELLENCE

STRATEGIES:
- Focus on developing excellent artworks and experiences rather than stretching limited resources to produce a high volume of projects that are not memorable.
- Develop artist selection methods that will deliver relevant and engaging public art.
- Create the infrastructure for artists to do their best work.
- Offer opportunities for community members to participate in the public art process from artist selection through project stewardship.
- Increase awareness about public art, placemaking, and beautification best practices and methods.
Focus Areas

ART INTEGRATED INTO DESIGN

Aesthetic upgrades to everyday places are desirable and amplify community character. When art is integrated into design, small and modest budgets can have big impacts on an entire site, maintenance costs can be reduced, and a range of artists will be able to participate. City of Lancaster will integrate art into their future capital projects and seek opportunities to encourage private developers to employ this strategy.

TRANSFORMING EYESORES INTO ASSETS

Every community presentation held for this plan elicited ideas about a streetscape, vacant lot, chain-link fence, empty wall, parking garage, gateway, water tower, or other spot that could be enhanced, turned from an eyesore into an asset. These small-scale projects can inject community character into a place and amplify what is unique about Lancaster, enhancing its livability.

Develop a fund and process for communities and artists to transform unsightly or underutilized places into assets with temporary or permanent public art and placemaking.

TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS FOR ALL

The strong desire to provide every neighborhood in Lancaster with access to public art opportunities was repeated during the community meetings, stakeholder interviews, and the public art plan survey. City of Lancaster will commission temporary works of art in at least four different neighborhoods. Possibilities include a site for changing sculpture installations, murals, projections, sound pieces, or interactive projects.
MAKE LANCASTER SQUARE A PLACE

Lancaster Square is a key location that is on its way to becoming a place. It occupies a prominent location downtown and is poised to capture people’s imagination. Before the redevelopment begins, the site could be used for temporary installations or events. Once the site is renovated, Lancaster Public Art can take the lead, or partner, in the development of arts programs, public art, and placemaking projects. Transforming Lancaster Square into a piazza will solidify Lancaster’s reputation as a creative, welcoming city.

COMMUNITY IDEAS FOR TEMPORARY ART

Lancaster values public art and wants to expand its public art program. Partnerships and policies are needed to capitalize on the community’s enthusiasm for art and creative places. City of Lancaster will create a policy for temporary public art that outlines the process for artists or organizations to initiate ideas for public property. This will create opportunities for more local and regional artists to develop public art skills, and allow for experimentation in new media, forms, and content that may be best expressed through temporary installations.

Public Art Partners

As a key leader, Lancaster Public Art is poised to be an active collaborator for art in the public realm. In-depth partnerships are essential to accomplish both small scale and ambitious goals.

Lancaster Public Art is seeking out organizations and community groups to help them:

- Engage communities in considering how working with an artist can help us achieve our broader goals.
- Develop public art sites and opportunities for temporary and permanent public art.
- Create educational programs and events with a public art component.
- Build interest among private developers commissioning or purchasing works of art for their properties.
- Empower local artists to produce successful public art projects in Lancaster and beyond.
- Increase awareness and excitement about contemporary public art.
Commissioned by the City of Lancaster and the Public Art Advisory Board with support from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania.


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PHOTO CREDITS:

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Page 5: Lancaster Sound Map Performance, 2016
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Students from Pennsylvania College of Art & Design and Two Dudes Painting Company
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